

The ELCOS Buddy Scheme

Aims of the Buddy Scheme:

- to enhance understanding and integration between international and home students
- to create opportunities for cross-cultural friendships, team work and communication
- to provide opportunities for participants to learn about other cultures, thereby enhancing cross-cultural awareness and sensitivity
- to integrate ELCOS students into the wider BU student community
- to enable ELCOS students to practise English with native speakers
- to give home students direct experience of working in cross-cultural contexts
- to enhance the employability of all participants

How it works:

A British student is partnered with one or two international students to form a buddy group. Each group agrees to meet a few times a month for a semester. Each group is free to decide on its own activities, and groups are encouraged to join up with each other. Recent activities have included learning how to cook each others' cuisine, tea and scones on Bangor pier, bowling and visits to the cinema at Llandudno, playing pool, visiting coffee shops, and volunteering.

All participants submit a brief monthly report through Blackboard, to facilitate monitoring of the scheme.

Feedback on the scheme has been very positive with some buddy relationships evolving into genuine cross-cultural friendships. Most groups meet regularly and describe their experience as enjoyable and useful.

[Bangor Employability Award](#) recognises the Buddy Scheme and awards 5 BEA points to participants who complete a full semester.

If you are interested in joining the Buddy Scheme, contact the Scheme coordinator, [Rachael Davey](#).